



### FOREIGN-PLANT INTRODUCTION MEDAL.

The work of Mr. Frank N. Meyer, Agricultural Explorer of the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction of the Bureau of Plant Industry for 13 years, is mainly recorded in the pages of these inventories. His descriptions of plant material which he discovered and sent in close with this fifty-fifth number of the inventories, and it seems appropriate to include in it a cut of the medal which his associates had struck and which is presented each year for distinguished service in the field of plant introduction. This has been made possible by means of a bequest which Mr. Meyer left to his associates in this office. The scene on the obverse of the medal is taken from the bas-relief of what is believed to be the earliest monument to plant introduction. It is on the wall of the palace of Queen Hatshepsut of Thebes, built about 1570 B. C., and portrays the queen's gardeners loading a boat with seeds and potted plants of the incense tree, to secure which they made an expedition to the land of Punt. On the reverse side is shown a branch of the white-barked pine (*Pinus bungeana*) and one of the Chinese grafted jujube (*Zizphus jujuba*), with whose introduction into America Mr. Meyer's name should always be associated. The Chinese inscription is from the poem of Chi K'ang, a poet of the Tang Dynasty, 618 A. D., and, freely translated, carries the thought: "In the glorious luxuriance of the hundred plants he takes delight." The first medal was awarded to Mr. Barbour Lathrop, whose personal support of the policy of plant introduction is recorded frequently in the early publications of this office (P26490FS.)